AN ANSWER TO THE Occasional Writer.

N° II.

(Price Six-pence.)

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Non tali auxilio, nec defensoribus istis
Tempus egit. Virgil Æn.

LONDON:
Printed for A. Moor near St. *Paul's.*
M DCC XXVII.

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OCCASIONAL WRITER.

BRITISH MUSEUM

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MDCCXXIV.

AN ANSWER TO THE OCCASIONAL WRITER, &c.

Worthy Sir, my once Rt. Hon. Lord,

YOUR Miscellaneous Letter being in print, and addressed to no Body, I thought any Man had a right to Answer it, and the more inconsiderable the more equal a Correspon-

respondent is he to one of your approved Integrity. I am greatly surprized that your Offers of * *Service should be treated with Contempt*, for that seems appropriated only to real Merit; so that I cannot but impute this ill Success to the great Modesty and Sincerity with which you acknowledged your self † *to have taken upon you the Character of an infamous Libeller.* But surely your Modesty is extended too far, when you say, that you only *take upon your self a Character* which was really given you by the universal Consent of Mankind; and I have still a better Opinion of you, since you fairly confess that in this, as upon most other Occasions, instead of *biting*

* Pag. I. † ibid.

* *biting others you have bit your self.*

DOUBTLESS by experience you can judge how eaſy it is for Malice to defame, and how uſeleſs a *venal Pen* is; ſince even that of Men of the greateſt Parts was not able to juſtify the Proceedings of a more *venal Miniſter*, nor blacken the Glories of a ſucceſsful War. How often has your Friend *Gulliver* lamented that he could ſay nothing in *Harry*'s commendation, but what muſt neceſſarily be taken in an ironical Senſe?

OUR Converſation generally runs upon ſuch Topicks as we are

* Pag. 1.

moſt familiar with; therefore I am not ſurprized that * *Aſſaſſins, Houſe-breakers, Coiners, Informers, Spies, Hireling Scribblers, and Evil Sateſmen*, were uppermoſt in your Thoughts; were it not ungenteel I would make a Quotation from a Book which you, I'm afraid, have not read ſince you left School —— *Out of the abundance of the Heart the Mouth ſpeaketh.*

INNOCENCE and Integrity are a kind of Shield that not only defends us, but even retorts the Arrows of Malice upon our Adverſaries; your own Words are a Panegyrick upon him, whom by the tenour of your Diſcourſe you endeavour to aſperſe; ſo that

* Pag. 3, 4.

I

I would adviſe you for the future to give Notice when you ſpeak ironically; for otherwiſe we may be apt to think that you fight Booty, ſince you commend your Correſpondent for thoſe Qualities which all the World allows him to poſſeſs; for none ever doubted of his * *Zeal to promote the Honour of his M——y, and the Security of our preſent happy Eſtabliſhment.*

USE is a ſecond Nature, and when a Man has accuſtomed himſelf to any peculiarity, he naturally falls into it. As in the Country from whence you laſt came writing Romances is *a la Mode*, your Quill was ſo uſed to thoſe genteel

* Pag. 4.

Compoſitions, that you cannot forbear the Marvellous for a few Pages; and ſurely it never could have flowed from your Underſtanding, but only have eſcaped from your Pen; * *That there was an unwillingneſs manifeſted that the true State of the National Debts ſhould be known by the Nation*, and that your Correſpondent *paſſed a Cenſure on ſuch Perſons as were deſirous to give their Countrymen a fair Account of their Condition in a Part ſo eſſential.* I have employed two Days, Sir, to enquire into this Fact, and find that no Body knows it but your ſelf, and ſurely no Man could be ſeverely cenſured *incognito*? Nor have any Papers or Accounts been kept

* Pag. 5.

kept from their Inſpection who have a Right or even a Pretence to demand it. More Papers of Publick Accounts have been laid before the H—— this Seſſion than was ever known, and a State of the National Debt is publickly ſold at no higher a Price than 2 *s.* 6 *d.* but how impartial it is, or whether the *publication of* this Pamphlet was by your directions, you are certainly the beſt judge?

IT ſeems, Sir, to gall you very much, that you cannot abuſe the People of *England* with the ſame eaſe as formerly; they are not to be twice bit by the ſame Wiles; they are not indeed ſo *eaſy nor ſo willing to be impoſed upon*;

nor

not will they for the ſake of *a ſingle Perſon's diſcontent, precipitate themſelves to ruin.* It enflames impotent Malice * to find that *no Family, no Party,* will adhere to a Man who has abandoned himſelf. *Cicero,* with all his Eloquence, could not gain the attention of the People of *Rome,* after he had only betrayed one Party; and when he found himſelf ſo deſpiſed that he could ſcarcely obtain an Hearing, he, in a rage, is ſaid to have ſpoken in *Greek*; perhaps you thought of this Story when you uſed the Word *Criterion*: And ſince you talk in this Strain, give me leave to obſerve, that the * *Criterion* by *which our Judgments are formed upon foreign Affairs,* is the Integrity and

* Pag. 7.

and Steadineſs with which Men act, and a Man to be in faſhion with us, muſt have one at leaſt, if not both theſe Virtues: As *Cicero* loſt himſelf for want of one of theſe only, notwithſtanding all his other good Qualities; can any one elſe expect to ſucceed who does not pretend to either of them?

You ſeem to be writing the Hiſtory of a Time which I would not willingly remember, when you ſay, that *Let* * *a Man declaim imperiouſly, and aſſert boldly, without regarding Proof, or condeſcending to Argue; let one of his Tools write a Pamphlet in much the ſame Strain, and the Work is done. The Opinion of Mankind is ſettled; the Crowd re-*

peats

* Pag. 7, 8.

peats what the Orator has ſaid and the Author writ; the Clamour is ecchoed back on all Sides, and theſe Ecchoes, the reverſe of all others, ſtrengthen by repetition; thus the Corrupt lead the Blind, and the Blind lead one another, the ſtill Voice of Reaſon is drowned in popular Clamour, and Truth is overwhelmed by Prejudice.

faire ceſſer le bruit

THIS is a true Account of what happened in the Year 1713, when *Queſtion, Queſtion, Queſtion,* &c. was all the Reply you vouchſafed to ſhrong Reaſon and good Arguments; when Numbers were deemed Evidence, and all that the *EXAMINER* wrote was received as Goſpel: But I beg pardon for repeating

an

an Hiſtory, which you have written ſo much better in the above Paragraph: I am only ſorry that you have not given us the *ſeveral Inſtances* which you hint at, ſince in all of them you could doubtleſs add —— *Quorum pars magna fui*; and conſequently muſt be a fit reporter of them.

I believe, Sir, you with Reaſon *deſpond*, if you entertain thoughts of alarming the People, you will toll the *Alarm Bell* in vain, for at moſt it will only ſound your paſt Actions in your own Ears; You unluckily mention the Word *Criſis*, ſince it calls to our remembrance a Time when you thought the *Tower* the propereſt Lodging for

the Author of a Book with that Title, you were then of far different Sentiments from thoſe which you now boaſt of, you did not then think it proper * *for every Man to Think, Write, Speak, and Act for his Country.* When you inſtruct the Government what to do in this critical Juncture, and gravely diſtinguiſh your Diſcourſe by *Firſt* and *Secondly*, without any Concluſion, I cannot help thinking of *Æſop*'s Fables, where the Wolf very demurely directs the Shepherds which way to preſerve the Sheep.

WHAT you *confeſs* about the Enquiry into the *Conduct*, *&c.* is begging the Queſtion through the whole; and if to affirm is to confute

* Pag. 10, 11.

ſute you have certainly the better of the Argument, ſince you roundly affirm, * *That Fallacy, Sophiſtry and puerile Declamation ſwell the elaborate Treatiſe*, without producing any one Inſtance; and with your uſual Candour you condemn the Meaſures which he defends, without proving any Thing againſt them.

You ſeem to be extremely fond of Metaphors taken from Storms and Shipwrecks, which I ſuppoſe are meant for the Advantage of your Bookſeller, by ſwelling your elaborate Treatiſe to Price One Shilling, and by this Means improve the Salary of the only Imployment you can now beſtow;

* Pag. 12.

and out of this Principle of Generosity to your Retainer, no doubt, your long Degression is owing, if any Part may be called so where the whole is nothing to the Purpose.

I began to read this with great Care, and it had so good an Effect upon me, that it threw me into a gentle Slumber; when I awoke I went to it again, and find that by the whole if you have any Design at all in it, your Aim is to make Monarchs contemptible, and to set the greatest Characters upon a Level with your own. You rail from the Time of *Hen.* VII. down to the Treaty of *Utrecht*, excepting the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, where you

you ſeem to have copy'd in Proſe the Ballad, *In good Queen Beſs's golden Day's*, &c. She (you tell us) ſupported *France* againſt the Greatneſs of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, and was the Occaſion of her Wars was to ſupport *Trade*, and maintain the *Ballance* of *Europe*. This you commend in her, at the ſame Time that you blame thoſe who purſue the ſame Meaſures.

* In treating of the following Reigns you make great Uſe of a modern Figure of Rhetorick called *Billinſgate*; and where you talk of a *bad head and worſe heart*; you ſeem to deſcribe a Gentleman who ſome Years ago contended ſtrenuouſly for the Reſpect due to crown'd Heads, but,

* Pag. 22.

but who by his Conduct ſince has demonſtrated that he meant ſuch only as would be content to wear his Fool's Cap: And ſure you forget who is deſcended from *James* I. when you ſay *that you cannot read his Reign without a Mixture of Indignation and Contempt*; but this and your following Reflections, require another Kind of Anſwer—

I was greatly pleaſed when I came to your 29th Page, and found that you aim'd at ſomethng; for there you promiſe *to fix the Application of the whole* of your Diſcourſe to the *preſent Conjuncture*; but ſuch is my Ignorance that tho' I ran over your whole Book; I cannot find whereabouts you have done it, ſo

that

that I imagined that you forgot what you were about in that Cloud of Words, which thro' the whole Work obſcures your Meaning.

I agree with you * *that whenever this Ballance is in real Danger by the exorbitant Growth of one Power; all other States ought to join in Meaſures for their common Security:* but immediately after you make a Diſtinction where I fear there is none, *viz. That they ought to proportion their Meaſures, not according to the Nature of the Danger conſider'd generally, but according to the immediate or remote Relation which it has to each of them,* &c. Now the *general Danger* has, no doubt, a Relation to every particular State, ſince if

* Pag. 33.

if the whole is in Danger, every Part is in Danger, or elſe *Ariſtotle* is miſtaken. But taking it for granted that each State is only to conſider *the immediate or remote Relation* which it has to each of them; In the late War *England*'s Danger from the *French* was not very *remote* ſince they not only promoted our civil Diſcords, but threatned us with open Invaſions. At the Concluſion of the Peace we were in more *immediate Danger* from them, ſince to your Knowledge, Sir, one of our Miniſters received 50, 000 Piſtoles from Mr. *de Torcy*; but the reſt (to their Honour be it ſpoken) refuſed Mony, tho' moſt of the Blame was laid on them. And I believe you your ſelf can teſtify

that

that if the late King of *France* had lived, the *Proteſtant Succeſſion* had been in very *immediate* Danger. The abandoning of the *Catalans*, for which the above Sum was in Part given, was indeed a *remoter* Prejudice to *England*, tho' it was an *immediate* Infamy, and in a great Meaſure the Occaſion of the preſent War: For had *Barcelona* and *Majorca* continued free from King PHILIP's Power, and under the *Engliſh* Protection, the *Spaniards* would ſcarcely have ventured upon a War whilſt they had ſuch a Thorn in their very Bowels.

THIS is not that I would blame or juſtify the Treaty of *Utrecht* ſince I think it entirely forreign to the

Purpoſe in Hand, which as you ſay is *to fix the Application of the whole to the preſent Conjuncture*; But this Application has eſcaped your Memory, for you have not ſaid one Word of the preſent Situation of Affairs, and your Pamphlet concludes with an Account of the Guarrantee of the *Neutrality* of *Italy*, and with ſome Reflections upon the Eaſineſs of maintaining that Treaty. In this, Sir, you agree with your Correſpondent who was ever a-gainſt violating that *Neutrality*; and was ſo zealous for not delivering up *Sicily* to the Emperor, that he was threatned with the *Tower* for the Freedom then uſed in Debate; and you your ſelf blame him in your former Paper for his too

ſtrenuous

ſtrenuous Oppoſition upon that Occaſion.

WHAT you chiefly blame in your Correſpondent is, that we ſhou'd be reduced to that Condition to which all the States in the World are liable, *viz.* * *That we muſt fight to Negotiate, and Negotiate to fight again.* But whether Negotiating or Fighting is next to be our Fate, I wou'd gladly know if you expect to be employ'd; for then I could gueſs at the event without conjuring; ſince the World is fully perſuaded that in either of theſe Capacities you are equally capable of ſerving your Country.

IN ſhort I am at a Loſs to deter-

* Pag. 34.

mine how what you have formerly done and ſaid can agree with what you now urge, and how all theſe various Opinions which have been entertained by you at ſeveral times can be ſhuffled together. Nor can I make your Writings any more of a Piece than your Actions: For there is but one thing to which I can by any Means prove you to have been ſteady, and that is very elegantly expreſſed by your ſelf where you tell us, That * *He who keeps his own particular Intereſt conſtantly in view, has an invariable Rule to go by:* To which generous Maxim no Man ever queſtioned your Adherence; ſince thro' all the various Changes in your Life you ever ſteered to that Point: So that

* Pag. 34.

that if you want a Motto when your Arms are new blazon'd, you may make Uſe of that which you once put to a Weather-cock; and take

Semper idem

by way of Gloſs to

In utrumque paratus.

F I N I S.

FINIS.

APPENDIX,

BEING THE

ANSWER

TO THE

Occaſional Writer.

No I.

DEAR SIR,

I Cannot make you too early, nor too ample acknowledgments, for the unlimited tender you are ſo kind to make me of your ſervice as a writer: And though you ſcrupled ſigning your Name, yet the maſter-like ſtrokes, with which you have delinea-

ted

ted your picture, hindered me from being one moment at a loſs to gueſs whoſe it was. The ingenious confeſſion you make of being never actuated by any principles that ſway the honeſt part of mankind; your having no regard to publick or private faith; your ſetting at nought fidelity to particulars; allegiance to Princes; love to your Country; together with all obligations promiſes, oaths, and the reſt of thoſe fooliſh tyes, that bind weaker minds, and give laws to narrower Genius's; are marks by which it was impoſſible not to diſtinguiſh you. For tho' here and there, there may be ſome worthy Gentlemen, who may reſemble you in this or that particular feature; yet the beautiful aſſemblage of them all is what you alone, Sir, can pretend to be maſter of.

When you ſay your firſt aim was to raiſe your reputation, I cannot ſufficiently applaud your dexterity in making choice of that ambiguous word; ſince it fully prevents the moſt detracting

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ing diſpoſition from aſſerting with the leaſt colour of truth, that you have miſſed of that aim: And if the method you purſued to eſtabliſh it, had fully ſucceeded, according to your laudable and ſalutary ſchemes for this nation; Hiſtory could not have furniſhed two heroes, worthy of making up a Triumvirate with you, if the names of *Heroſtratus* and *Nero* had been loſt.

But I cannot help remarking the too unfortunate exreams, to which this thirſt of reputation and injuditious ambition, have alternately brought you. Since they firſt mounted you to a dangerous height, where the ignorant only envied you, and have ſince plunged you in an abyſs, where the weak can only pity you.

When you boaſt that the firſt eſſays of your Pen made a good deal of noiſe in the world, you do your ſelf but juſtice; not only the *Sorbonne*, but all *France*, and *Rome* it ſelf had reaſon to reſound your praiſe and pay their humbleſt acknowledgements for the ſignal ſervice you did them in thoſe diſputes you reconciled. But what your own country owed you, for the differences you compoſed abroad, and fomented at home, I believe you would not be ſo glad to claim, nor was it your modeſty only that made you decline the reward ſhe was preparing to beſtow.

As to your conſcience which you would ſo generouſly give up to my keeping, I think my ſelf unſpeakably obliged to you for ſo kind an offer. For tho' moſt ambitious people would be glad to part with that impertinent monitor, becauſe they are apt to find him now and then a little troubleſome, yet you have given ſuch inconteſtible proofs of this not being your caſe, that I can never thank you enough for devoting to my ſervice ſo indulgent a friend, and ſo tractable a companion: But unleſs you could diveſt me of my own and my reaſon to boot I fear I ſhould not be able to make much uſe of this aſſignment.

Upon the whole, Sir, I cannot but bemoan our mutual Loſs, that where there is ſo good a diſpoſition to do me ſervice, there ſhould be ſo little ability. What would the World ſay of my cauſe if I ſhould take a ſtep that would betray my thinking it ſo deſperate, as the calling in emancipated Slaves, proſcribed Criminals, or inſolvent Debtors, to ſupport it? Theſe Methods you know Sir, are accounted as evident Marks of deſpair in Politicians, as the preſcribing *Kenſington* Gravel Pits, or Pigeons to the Patient's Feet, are of deſpondency in Phyſicians: And was I ſo near ſinking as to catch at ſuch Reeds to ſupport

port me, yet I fear I ſhould find the Qualifications you boaſt of to recommend you, as little uſeful to a Miniſter, as you found them in one.

WHEN MENAS the freedman of *Pompey* the younger, a man of parts without probity, and enterprizing without conduct, revolted firſt from *Pompey* to *Octavius*, then from *Octavius* to *Pompey*, and then from *Pompey* to *Octavius* again; you may remember what was the conſequence of receiving and liſtning to that Fugitive, and from thence may learn the reaſons why I can never adviſe * * * * * * to do otherwiſe by you, than *Auguſtus* at laſt did by him; who, according to the laws of War, reaped the allowed benefit accruing from the treachery of that ſhameleſs deſerter, but, never, put it in his power a ſecond time to betray him.

NOR do I ſpeak my ſingle ſentiments upon this occaſion, but thoſe of the whole nation: for believe me, dear Sir, (as hard a task as it is) you have united the opinions of mankind with regard to you, and the decent contempt, which the better ſort of them expreſs for you, is as ſtrong a mark of diſlike, as the groſſer railing of the other: This being the caſe,

Palinurus muſt be very drowſy indeed, if he could conſent to truſt the rudder one moment in the hands of ſuch a Deputy, and would deſerve to find that pilot's fate; a terrible one indeed, but not the worſt; for who had not rather periſh ſingly without involving the crew committed to his care, than ſink all thoſe poor confiding wretches, who had ſet him at the helm, and by a ſhameful ſcramble ſave his own wretched Life, and ſwim to ſhore?

AFTER giving you my reaſons for not accepting your future ſervice, I think my ſelf obliged in gratitude to thank you for the good turns you have already done me. Your kind information of what is laid to my charge in the company you frequent (if it is not merely the conſequence of your natural propenſity to telling) is a mark of favour that claims my warmeſt acknowledgments: And when you next aſſemble that candid body, you will oblige me in telling them. I am as far from fearing the juſtice of any * * * * ſcrutiny into my conduct, as I am from being hurt by the unjuſt reflections thrown out by thoſe whoſe private envy is their only motive for publick cenſure; and whatever

ever contradictions theſe Gentlemen may have obſerved in my character; there is one which I'll venture to aſſure you, you will never diſcover, which is my ever being alarmed at an oppoſition from one in the impotence of diſgrace, who could never terrify me in the Zenith of his proſperity.

As to thoſe wondring people who affect ſo much ſurpriſe at theſe changes in our Friendſhips and our Enemies abroad, that *France* ſhould be now our deareſt Friend, who was heretofore our moſt dreaded Enemy; and that the Emperor, who was ſo lately our darling Ally, ſhould now become our moſt formidable Foe; the anſwer to theſe Gentlemen is a very plain and ſhort one, 'tis not the Emperor, nor *France*, nor *Spain*, nor this, nor t'other Potentate, to whom we muſt keep up a perpetual oppoſition, grant a conſtant aſſiſtance: Power will always be fluctuating amongſt the Princes of *Europe*, and where ever the preſent flow of it appears, (eſpecially in open and direct Violations of our juſt rights) there is our enemy, there the proper object of our fears. And I can never think our having once lent a hand to raiſe the Emperor, is any argument why we ſhould ſuffer him afterwards to climb what heights he pleaſes, at the expence

and

and upon the ruins of this nation: The ſame Policy that ſuggeſted the one, juſtifies our putting a ſtop to the other; and I hope as he found our aſſiſtance not unavailing in one Situation; he may prove our oppoſition not inſignificant in the other: And that we may be able to ſet ſome bounds to his acquiſitions, if we can't to his ambition. And therefore you will pardon me, Sir, for ſtill differing from you as I have always done in foreign affairs; and for not thinking, that when our moſt valuable branches of trade are uſurped, our poſſeſſions attacked, and our preſent happy eſtabliſhment in the Proteſtant line threaten'd without provocation, and in defiance of the moſt ſolemn Treaties, we are in this caſe to ſit ſtill, and wait to ſee whether other Princes and States will quarrel and fight among themſelves for our intereſts; and, remaining entirely indolent and indifferent our ſelves, leave to chance and the care of other powers ſuch ineſtimable bleſſings, upon the preſervation or loſs of which, the riches, ſtrength and ſecurity of this nation ſo immediately and eſſentially depend. But as ſelf-love naturally diſpoſes men to like thoſe beſt, next to themſelves, who reſemble them moſt, I do not wonder at your having for the

Emperor,

Emperor, whom you formerly ſo much abhorred, ſo great a concern and friendſhip, ſince he has acted ſo ungrateful a part towards this nation; and, by the ſame rule of good Principle and Honeſty, at your appearing now ſo inveterate againſt *France*, which ſo kindly received and entertained you when your guilt made you fly your own country.

If you will be ſo good to give theſe things in anſwer for me, whenever you hear me attacked upon this head, it will be all the ſervice I ſhall ever deſire you to do me, and all the employment I ſhall ever trouble you with.

I know how natural it will be for a Gentleman of your reſtleſs ſpirit, upon this repulſe to turn the point of your zeal (*in utrumque paratus*) againſt the breaſt of him, in whoſe defence you offered to draw it: But I ſhall have many fewer apprehenſions in making you my enemy, than I ſhould have had in receiving you as a friend; becauſe 'tis well known you are as harmleſs in one capacity as you are dangerous in the other.

I muſt inform you too, that if you deſign to be very ſcurrilous and abuſive in your invectives, your changing your name in libels, as often as you have done your party in politicks, will not prevent

prevent your being diſcovered. When *Proteus* try'd ſucceſſively the Flame, the Lyon and the Bear, to intimidate *Ariſtæus*. He was known baffled, conquered, and contemned in every ſhape; and found it as impoſſible to avoid doing his Victor the ſervice he required of him, as you will find it to make me accept, or think I ſtand in need of any you can do me. I am,

SIR,

Your moſt Obedient.

FINIS.